



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-01-0041

May 25, 2007

UTILITY EXPENSES REVIEW

Inspector General David O. Thomas reports as follows:

This report addresses the internal lighting of Indiana Government Centers North (IGCN) and South (IGCS) after regular work hours.

A report was previously issued on November 3, 2005 with recommendations to the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) regarding a new lighting sequence to accommodate the cleaning and work crews within these facilities. These original recommendations were reached with the cooperation of IDOA. An immediate review thereafter confirmed that these recommendations were being implemented by IDOA. One of the duties charged to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is to “recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in state government.” I.C. 4-2-7-3(2).

In May of 2007, Bob Segall of WTHR reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) that for several months he had filmed these two facilities through the night hours and found that the lights were often left on beyond the original

recommendations of the OIG. The OIG receives and screens requests to investigate from a variety of sources, including state workers, members of the public, and the media. These WTHR films were viewed and demonstrated the interior lights were often left on through the early morning hours and beyond the original OIG recommendations.

The OIG contacted IDOA about this evidence. Deputy Commissioner Brian Renner cooperated with the review and confirmed that after the OIG report was issued in November of 2005, IDOA instituted a process by which lighting in IGCN and IGCS was sequenced “off” at night once custodial staff had finished nightly cleaning duties in the various locations. The schedule varied by floor, starting as early as seven-thirty p.m. with the last of the lights to be turned off by eleven-thirty p.m.

Deputy Renner also followed up several weeks after this process was originally initiated and found that these lights, with the exception of those needing to remain on continuously, were turned off by eleven-thirty p.m. The process is an automated system but has override capabilities when circumstances require lights to be on past normal shut-down times. Circumstances that impact lighting sequences include: (1) continuous 24/7 operations for law enforcement and information technology agencies, (2) custodial staff needing extended time for additional cleaning duties, and (3) construction and remodeling projects that take place during night and early morning hours.

Deputy Renner confirmed that problems occurred with the process in that overrides to the system were not being switched back to automated control and

lights did not get turned off once extended work was completed. Deputy Renner also volunteered that there also was no process in place that logged information regarding the overrides and reported that he has implemented this new system. He also reported that IDOA has redirected attention to its control room operation and technicians. Operational procedures have been emphasized to employees that sequencing of lights must be followed. An exception to override the system now must have supervisor or management approval, and all requests for an override must now be documented and justified. Deputy Renner also reported that schedules for both IGCN and IGCS are under review and meetings with custodial staff and managers are occurring to further define necessary lighting sequences to seek opportunities to reduce lighting schedules. It was also pointed out that on one of the days in the filmed coverage of the recent lighting, multiple construction and remodel projects were taking place, not accounting for all the lighting that would have been on that day, but as an example of what takes place in these buildings after normal business hours. It was further related that daily utility bills do not distinguish between lighting and the other electrical expenses which include computers, kitchen equipment and the large fans and motors that serve the heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.

Accordingly, the OIG finds that the original recommendations were initially implemented by IDOA with a new lighting sequencing system for IGCN and IGCS, but that these schedules were altered, resulting in excessive lighting at both centers. The OIG also finds that IDOA has cooperated with this review and has made suggestions on how to remedy the excessive lighting issues.

Based upon these findings, the OIG recommends that: (1) the original recommendations be immediately re-implemented, (2) the new proposals as suggested by IDOA be immediately implemented, including the new logging system to monitor and justify overrides to the lighting sequencing, and (3) that meetings with IDOA managers and custodial staff continue on these issues.

The OIG will further review the implementation of these new recommendations at a later time.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

David O. Thomas, Inspector General